

Message Text

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE, PO

SUBJECT: GDR PRESS ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL

1. AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE MARCH 4 EDITION OF THE EAST BERLIN DAILY BERLINER ZEITUNG(BZ) REVEALS THE GDR'S ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. IT IS CLEARLY A DEFENSIVE VIEW, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS ARE IN RETREAT AND DESCRIBING THE CLASS STRUGGLE THERE AS REACHING A CRITICAL STAGE.

2. THE BLAME FOR THIS SITUATION IS PLACED SQUARELY ON
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" BIG BUSINESS" WHOSE, INFLUENCE IS REAPPEARING IN PORTUGAL.

CITING THE WEST GERMAN LIBERAL WEEKLY, DIE ZEIT, THE ARTICLE SAYS THE POWERFUL FAMILIES WHO FLED PORTUGAL WHEN THEIR PROPERTY WAS SEIZED AFTER THE REVOLUTION ARE NOW BEING INVITED TO RETURN TO A " RE-PRIVATIZED" ECONOMY THE ROLE OF " PERMANENT IMPERIALIST INTERVENTION" CAN BE MEASURED BY THE \$450 MILLION CREDITS NOW BEGINNING TO ARRIVE FROM THE U.S. AND THE F.R.G.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, LEFTISTS HAVE BEEN FORCED OUT OF THE MILITARY " PROGRESSIVE" OFFICERS PLACED IN CHARGE OF THE POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD FOLLOWING IN 1974 REVOLUTION HAVE BEEN REMOVED, AND 800 IMPRISONED AGENTS OF THE SECRET POLICE HAVE BEEN RELEASED. THE RESULT HAS BEEN A SERIES OF BOMBINGS, ATTACKS AND WITCH-HUNTS AGAINST COMMUNISTS WHICH HAS GREATLY HAMPERED THE " LEGAL WORK" OF THE PARTY.

4. " IN THIS SITUATION," THE ARTICLE EXPLAINS " ELECTIONS ARE TO BE HELD...ON APRIL 25 AND 27" IT CLOSES WITH A CALL BY COMMUNIST LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL, FRESHLY RETURNED FROM THE 25TH PARTY CONGRESS IN MOSCOW, FOR AN ALLIANCE OF COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS, AND ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT AND " OTHER DEMOCRATIC FORCES" IN PORTUGAL TO DEFEND THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE REVOLUTION.

5. COMMENT: THE GDR MEDIA HAVE TENDED RECENTLY TO PORTRAY THE SITUATION IN PORTUGAL IN INCREASINGLY SOBER TONES. IN THIS MOST RECENT REPORT, THE " BZ" SEEMS TO BE PREPARING ITS DOMESTIC READERSHIP FOR FURTHER COMMUNIST SETBACKS IN PORTUGAL, SPECIFICALLY IN THE COMING ELECTIONS. COOPER

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